



August 11, 2020

Dear Building Blocks Teachers and Directors,

Thank you so much for sharing your experiences and feedback with Little Sprouts and me through our latest iteration of the Employee Survey: Back to School (URL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sinceCOVID>). Your trust is paramount to sustaining high-quality care at our schools and it's clear already through the survey that continuing to have open communication is key to maintaining your trust.

I want you to know that this week we will start reaching out to our currently enrolled families, along with those who were enrolled in our school at the start of our COVID closures, to see if we could help with their school-aged children this school year. Also, I want to share that conversations with staff who are interested in leading these school-aged program have already started (so, no worries if school-aged is not for you 😊)

This outreach is being made for a number of reasons:

- Teachers continue to report feeling stressed by decreased school enrollment. Yes, enrollment is down across the entire field of early education. We remain prepared for this reality and flexible and open to new opportunities to keep supporting enrollment.
- Families have expressed immediate needs and interest in enrolling their school-aged children. Again, this outreach has been limited to families already within our school communities. These school-aged children are the older siblings of children we are already exposed to in our schools and/or the children of our staff.
- The state of Connecticut has approved subsidy childcare support (Care4Kids) for school-aged children for the 2020-2021 school year. This means that families (staff or enrolled) who currently qualify for assistance for their younger children, could also receive funding for their school-aged children to attend.
- We can enroll school-aged children and still abide by best public health practices as outlined by the CDC. While the CDC does not recommend that young children who cannot manage their own mask where one at all times, when indoors, they do however recommend that school-aged wear masks or facecoverings at all times when indoors, which means that any school-aged child enrolled in our program will wear masks as do all of our directors and teachers.

I also want you to know that I am working with Little Sprouts on a discount plan for teachers and directors with school-aged children. Our commitment to support working families always extends to you and your family. As soon as we have finalized details our the employee school-aged discount we will share with the entire team.

The second page of this letter includes the breakdown of the school-aged care we are planning to begin offering to families this week. Please review and let your director know if you have any further questions.

With gratitude,

*Lindsay*

Lindsay Hoffman, President, Building Blocks & Child World's Academy